

District of Illinois. Construction first began on the Electric Energy, Incorporated Joppa location on February 15, 1951. Since the first synchronization on April 10, 1953, Electric Energy, Incorporated has been producing coal generated energy to serve the needs of southern Illinois.

I am proud to represent Electric Energy, Incorporated and to share in this special anniversary with them. I thank them for all they do to provide energy to southern Illinois and this great nation and wish them many successes in the years to come. Congratulations!

A TRIBUTE TO COACH DON
WATSON

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, Coach Don Watson. Don will be inducted into the Hinsdale Central Hall of Fame during a dinner in Hinsdale on Friday, October 3rd, and his former swimmers are planning a reception and reunion to honor him on Saturday evening, October 4th.

The sport of swimming has been uniquely woven into Donald Dale Watson's life. Coach, mentor and friend, this unique man has been dedicated to pursuing excellence in the sport of swimming for over 60 years. Don is being honored at a reception organized by his former swimmers and staff on October 4, 2003 in Hinsdale, Illinois. He will be accompanied by his family—wife, Jan, daughter, Ann, and son, Jon.

Don first became interested in swimming at the age of 13 and elected to join a swim team that practiced at the local YMCA in St. Louis, Missouri. Back in the 1940's swimming was not a popular sport. The decision to join a swim team would require hard work and dedication from the young athlete. Without any support from family or friends, Don was required to travel across town via bus to attend daily practices. Many evenings he would arrive home long after dark. Fortunately, his hard work and diligence were rewarded with a trip to the national YMCA senior championships where he was awarded the senior champion medal. In 1946, as a 14-year old high school student, he qualified to attend the Olympic Trials, but unfortunately missed earning a spot on the U.S. Olympic team by 0.00001 of a second. Once again, his hard work was recognized and he was awarded as the "1946 Olympic Trials Outstanding Young Athlete". Missing a spot on the Olympic team did not discourage Don, and he continued to train hard throughout his remaining high school years. He showed significant ability and was given a full athletic scholarship to attend the University of Iowa in Iowa City, where he twice earned NCAA Collegiate All-American honors.

Upon graduation from Iowa, Don married fellow swimmer, Janet Louise Watson, but was soon called to serve his country in the Korean War. After serving as a Navy corpsman on an aircraft carrier for three years, Don returned home and accepted a position as an assistant swimming coach at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, where he was blessed to work under the direction of his

mentor, Coach James "Doc" Councilman. While coaching at Indiana, Don obtained a masters degree in physical education. He then accepted a coaching position at Proviso East High School in Maywood, Illinois. Although the school's swimming program had been virtually non-existent, after three short years of dedication and countless hours of practice, Don led Proviso East to an impressive eighth place finish in the Illinois State meet.

In 1963, Don accepted a position as assistant swimming coach at Hinsdale Central High School in Hinsdale, Illinois. This decision would alter and mold the lives of many young swimmers in the Hinsdale community. After serving as assistant coach for two years, Don was promoted to head coach and the dynasty of Hinsdale swimming began. It was not long before people realized that this special and quiet man had an extraordinary gift for coaching and encouraging young swimmers. Don would go on to amass an amazing record of unmatched success in high school swimming.

As Head Swimming Coach at Hinsdale Central High School over the period 1965–1978, Don's coaching record is one of the most successful in American history. From 1967 to 1978, his Hinsdale Central teams won 12 consecutive Illinois state high school swimming and diving championship titles and achieved a phenomenal dual meet record of 163 wins, 3 losses. His team won the National Interscholastic High School championship title in 1970, when he was selected as the United States Swimming Coach of the Year. Don coached four Olympians. His swimmers set seven individual or relay world records. He was selected as the National Interscholastic Swimming Coach of the Year in 1977. The list of athletic accomplishments attributed to Don's leadership is nearly endless.

In 1978, Don retired from coaching at Hinsdale Central. After spending the majority of his life around a swimming pool, he was not ready to throw in the towel and escape the chlorine gas. Don accepted a non-coaching position at the University of Texas at Austin where he continues to serve as Director of the Texas Swimming Center, managing the physical facility as well as collegiate, national and international swimming events. In 2000, he received the Frank Erwin Award for his outstanding achievements and contributions to the sport of swimming in the State of Texas. At the age of 73, Don continues to swim daily. He especially enjoys working out with notables like Governor of Texas, Rick Perry, and federal judge Sam Sparks, who frequently swim at the Center.

As incredible and important as his coaching accomplishments are, Don is fondly remembered by his former staff, friends, and swimmers as a man deeply dedicated to the character development of boys and girls, young men and women. Besides pouring countless hours into their development as athletes, Don diligently invested into building each individual's sense of commitment, sacrifice, and hard work. Through their commitment to family, community and country, Don's many proteges continue to ably contribute to the quality of life throughout our nation.

Don Watson and his family also contributed greatly to my life. I was a graduate student at the University of Missouri, Columbia when Don visited our swimming facility. I was an assistant to Coach Tom Harabediaw. Don offered me a position at Hinsdale High School

as an assistant swim coach. His leadership and trust in his students garnered high school All Americans, state championships, and Olympic gold and silver medalists. I was made to feel part of his family and given a lot of responsibility as a young coach. I only left to join naval aviation and fight in the Vietnam War. Much of what Don Watson taught me about team work, caring for the people you work with, and the drive to win helped me both in the Navy and now as a U.S. Congressman. It pains me to not be able to join this celebration of a great man.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA VOTING
RIGHTS PETITION TO CONGRESS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Constitution Day to submit to Congress a petition from nearly 1,000 District of Columbia residents for voting rights in the Congress. I commend Joseph N. Grano, the leader of the Voting Rights Petition who has gathered the signatures of prominent Washingtonians contained in the petition. Full democracy and voting rights for the District of Columbia residents have been my chief goals since I was first elected to Congress. Joseph Grano has furthered the goal for DC residents through this petition.

Last year in the 107th Congress, a 9–0 Senate Committee vote sent my DC voting rights bill, No Taxation Without Representation, to the Senate floor for the first time in 25 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in acknowledging that the denial of full congressional voting rights is a denial of fundamental rights to District of Columbia residents.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA VOTING RIGHTS
PETITION TO CONGRESS, 2001–2002

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America: We, the undersigned residents of Washington, DC and citizens of the United States, respectfully petition for representation in Congress as is duly granted to all citizens residing in the fifty States.—Washington, DC, February 2, 2001–June 14, 2002.

PETITIONERS
Elected Officials

Delegate, U.S. House of Representatives: Eleanor Holmes Norton.

Mayor, District of Columbia: Anthony A. Williams. Council of the District of Columbia: Linda W. Cropp, Chairman; Harold Brazil, At Large; David A. Catania, At Large; Phil Mendelson, At Large; Carol Schwartz, At Large; Jim Graham, Ward 1; Jack Evans, Ward 2; Kathleen Patterson, Ward 3; Adrian Fenty, Ward 4; Vincent B. Orange, Sr., Ward 5; Sharon Ambrose, Ward 6; Kevin P. Chavous, Ward 7; Sandy Allen, Ward 8.

Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners: Jacqueline Arguelles, 1A01; Mack A. James, 1A04; Regina Upchurch, 1A08; Lawrence T. Guyot, Jr., 1B04.

Statehood Delegation to Congress: Florence H. Pendleton, Senator; Paul Strauss, Senator; Ray Browne, Representative.

Board of Education of the District of Columbia: Peggy Cooper Cafritz, President; Julie Mikuta, District 1; Dwight E. Singleton, District 2; Tommy Wells, District 3; William Lockridge, District 4. Theodore B.